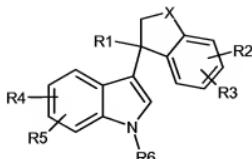


**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein,

X represents -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -CH<sub>2</sub>S-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>10</sup>-;

R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-heterocycle, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylamine, or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)dialkylamine;

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, halo, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle;

R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, halo, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle;

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, halo, amino, nitro, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy,

NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>7</sup>, NHCOR<sup>8</sup>, or COR<sup>9</sup>NHSO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or halo;

R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>7</sup> represents (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, aryl, NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylamine, or N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)dialkylamine;

R<sup>8</sup> represents (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy, or aryl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy;

R<sup>9</sup> represents (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy, and

R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein X represents -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>S-.

3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 2 wherein X represents -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, or -CH<sub>2</sub>O-.

4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 3 wherein X represents -CH<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-.

5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 3 wherein X represents -CH<sub>2</sub>O-.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-heterocycle, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylamine, or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)dialkylamine.

8. (Original) The compound according to Claim 7 wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-heterocycle, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylamine, or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl-N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)dialkylamine.

9. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, halo, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, heterocycle, or substituted heterocycle.

10. (Original) The compound according to Claim 9 wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, ethyl, propyl, or isopropyl.

11. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, or bromo.
12. (Original) The compound according to Claim 11 wherein R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen or fluoro.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl.
19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure, inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension, asthma, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 26 wherein the disorder is diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure, inflammation, hypertension, or rheumatoid arthritis.
28. (Currently Amended) A method of treating atherosclerosis comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Cancelled)
30. (Cancelled)
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Cancelled)
33. (Cancelled)
34. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of N-[3-(1-Ethyl-5-fluoro-indan-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-[3-(6-Fluoro-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-[3-(6,8-Difluoro-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-[3-(4-Ethyl-7-fluoro-chroman-4-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, and N-[3-(1-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-indan-1-yl)-1H-indol-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.